

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SY-05
MCT-01 /082 W
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R 110630Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0952
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NY

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF
SUBJ: PAC TERRORISM TRIAL

REF: (A) PRETORIA 1637; (B) PRETORIA 1064; (C) PRETORIA 0784
OF 1977 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE TERRORISM ACT TRIAL OF 18 ALLEGED PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS
(PAC) MEMBERS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, RECRUITING PEOPLE FOR MILITARY
TRAINING, AND FURTHERING THE AIMS OF THE BANNED PAC, CONTINUES
"IN CAMERA" IN BETHAL.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, UNNAMED STATE WITNESSES HAVE
CONSISTED OF PAC COURIERS AND SOMEONE INVOLVED IN JOURNALISM.
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SEVERAL COURIERS REPORTEDLY TESTIFIED THAT THEY PASSED MONEY
TO TWO OF THE ACCUSED (NTOELE AND SHINNERS) AND ANOTHER
COURIER CLAIMED TO HAVE VISITED THE LATE ROBERT SOBUKWE WITH
A THIRD ACCUSED (MOTHOPENG). A DIFFERENT STATE WITNESS TOLD
THE COURT THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE NOW BANNED UNIION OF BLACK
JOURNALISTS WAS TO PROVIDE BLACK REPORTERS "WITH SOME SECURITY
BECAUSE MOST BLACK JOURNALISTS ARE NOT HIRED ON A PERMANENT

BASIS...FOR EXAMPLE ON THE RAND DAILY MAIL." THIS SAME WITNESS POINTED OUT ONE OF THE ACCUSED (LANDINGWE) AS THE PERSON PRESENT AT A PARTICULAR MEETING. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, LANDINGWE STOOD UP IN COURT AND WAS TOLD BY JUSTICE CURLEWIS: "NUMBER EIGHT, DON'T LOOK AT HIM LIKE THAT. IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE THAT AGAIN, I'LL SEND YOU OUT OF COURT."

3. APRIL 8 PRESS REPORTED DEPARTURE FROM DEFENSE TEAM OF ADVOCATE WILFRED COOPER. COOPER ALLEGEDLY CONFERRED WITH THE ACCUSED BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM CASE AND INFORMED CURLEWIS THAT "I DON'T THINK IT IS PROPER TO TELL YOUR WORSHIP WHAT TRANSPIRED." (COOPER, ONE OF TOP ADVOCATES IN SOUTH AFRICA, JOINED THE CASE IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH.)

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS REFERRED JOHNSON IVAN NYATHI'S LETTER OF DEMAND FOR \$23,000 TO THE DEPUTY STATE ATTORNEY IN JOHANNESBURG FOR CONSIDERATION. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C, NYATHI IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW SOUTH AFRICANS TO LIVE TO CLAIM THAT THE POLICE THREW HIM OUT OF A WINDOW WHILE HE WAS IN DETENTION.

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5. COMMENT: SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF COOPER BODES ILL FOR PAC ACCUSED. ONE PROMINENT JOHANNESBURG ATTORNEY TOLD EMBOFF LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MONTH THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF COUNSEL BEFORE COOPER JOINED TEAM. COOPER IS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE AND IS AT HIS BEST EXAMINING WITNESSES.
BOWDLER

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